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Appn. No. 09/991,594 Unit 3732 (De Luca)

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

My invention relates to dental tools and is designed solely to remove dentures from the mouth, easily, comfortably and above all, hygienically. Presently, because of necessity, this feat is accomplished, digitally.

The trauma of losing one's teeth, necessitating the wearing of a denture, is unfortunately exacerbated by a series of continuing tortures, to which the denture wearer is subject.

1. The denture itself is a "foreign object" in one's mouth - in other words, a hostile enemy, causing gum pain, difficulty in swallowing, the partial loss of taste and last, but not least, the inability to pronounce certain consonants, thus giving the impression of having a speech impediment.

2. As bone loss is the cause of tooth loss, there are factors leading to this condition, which do not necessarily include personal dental hygiene. The consensus of opinion is that "old age" is the culprit. So, besides suffering weakened reflexes, diminished energy and a host of other "age-related" ailments, it is not fair that the elderly be relegated to the dust heap of society and be forced to bear one last indignity. Therefore, I felt it was my moral duty to remove any distress or discomforts associated with the wearing of dentures, which have been totally ignored by the makers of Denture Adhesive Creams.

3. We are told that the aforementioned difficulties (pain, loss of taste and flawed diction) can be overcome in time, by patience,

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practice and tolerance. But, there is another difficulty - the ability to easily remove the denture from the mouth, given the suction effect of the cement. This problem has never been previously addressed.

The normal procedure of denture removal is to firmly grip each side of the denture with both thumbs and index fingers and PULL defiantly. When that fails, one must resort to the very unsanitary and painful usage of one's fingernails, by digging them into the gums, in an effort to pry it off. This is not a healthy solution.

During my research, I was further shocked by the report of the Surgeon General on Oral Health. He states that "The overall rate of edentulism for adults, 18 and older is 10% (of population). The rate increases with age, so about 1/3 of those 65 or older are edentulous." Considering these statistics, it can be logically concluded that these groups are the users of dentures, and it became obvious that there was indeed, a "need" to be filled.

A further and more specific object of my invention is to make a tool of this design from plastic or similar hard material which can withstand the continued pressure of the pulling down of the denture.

Further and other details of my invention are hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the actual size of the Personal Denture Remover.

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Fig. 2 shows the overall top view including the top of the hook.

Fig. 3 shows the Hook, which has been measured and contoured to fit over the denture.

Fig. 4 shows the ring or loop, through which to put the index finger. The lower part is firmly held by the thumb.

Fig. 5 shows an enlargement of the tip of the hook, which is rounded to form a 1/2 ball. It is so designed to prevent injury to the tender gums. This particular feature is not a part of any other inventions previously cited, nor is it a part of any prior art cited. Therefore, this is the novel and distinguishing feature of my invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawing:

The tool or instrument 22 as provided by the present invention is best shown in Figs. 1 and 4. This instrument is designed solely and specifically for the purpose of removing the dentures from the mouth, easily, comfortably and above all, hygienically.

Referring to Fig. 1, the instrument 22 comprises a ring 20, through which to place the index finger; a curved hook 11, which was measured to fit perfectly over the contour of the denture; the tip of the hook 5, which features a tiny 1/2 ball, rounded to insure smoothness against the gums, thus avoiding injury to that tender area.

Figs. 3 and 5 further emphasize the curvature of the hook and show the simplicity of design in an instrument of great utilitarian value.

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Operation of Invention:

The manner of using the personal denture remover is simple. The loops are to be used as a pair to facilitate the loosening of the denture from the left and right sides of the gums. To remove an upper denture, a user must insert both index fingers separately into the two loops. The loops are then inserted into the mouth, with the hooks reaching over the top of the denture, while holding the bottom of each loop with a thumb. A gentle tug downward loosens an upper denture, without a struggle normally associated with this task. To loosen a lower denture, the position is reversed, pulling the denture upward.

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